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To the CITIZENS of Edinburgh.

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A Paper addressed to the Public has been lately circulated, with no other view than to inflame the minds and passions of the mob, by alarming them with apprehensions of Popery and arbitrary power. To condescend to employ arguments to refute such topics, would be conferring too great importance on the performance, and by that means paying the author a compliment he ill deserves. He must be conscious there is not the least shadow, or foundation, for such suggestions; conscious of the malignity of his own intentions; which it is to be hoped their own folly and futility will render equally impotent and vain; and that every person who can at all read, or reflect, will be able to separate declamation from reason, and to distinguish between the genuine flame of true patriotism, and the destructive brand of impudent and audacious sedition. I cannot suppose that Sir L—— D——, or his friends, would countenance, or even have permitted such a publication, had it been in their power to prevent it. If I judge too charitably on this occasion, I own it would confirm the most unfavourable theory I ever entertained of human nature.

In this performance, and others of the same stamp, the Lord Advocate has been the subject of much vague and vulgar defamation; nor do I believe there ever was a character more grossly misrepresented. Does this author really imagine his Lordship ever intended to introduce the Romish religion into this country? For an answer to this question I could venture to appeal to his own feelings, if I thought they were not entirely annihilated.

In the Lord Advocate's public character, whether as a statesman, an orator, or lawyer, he has always appeared a steady and determined

determined friend to the laws and constitution of his country, and has supported both with a degree of intrepidity which no danger could intimidate, and a rectitude which no temptation could seduce. Happy for some others ! had they possessed the same manly and uniform conduct on a late interesting occasion in parliament. Nor are his public talents superior to the more amiable virtues of a private nature. Generous, friendly, warm-hearted, he delights in acts of munificence and humanity; and such is his disinterestedness, that he has been frequently known to bestow favours, and to procure pensions and places, for persons from whom he could expect no return, but whose merit or peculiar situation required his protection and assistance. In short, his character will stand distinguished among the most illustrious of his contemporaries, and will be held in estimation, when the censures of his enemies will not be remembered, or not regarded.

BENEVOLUS.

Edinburgh, Sept. 22. 1780.



